

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic imaging system, comprising:
an imaging device for imaging an object inside a body cavity;
a digital signal converter for converting an image signal sent from said imaging device into a digital signal;
a signal processor for processing said digital signal sent from said digital signal converter;
a discriminating signal appending circuit for appending a discrimination signal ~~in relation to the number of pixels of said imaging device~~ to said digital signal processed by said signal processor;
a compression circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said discriminating signal appending circuit, and for compressing said digital signal processed by said signal processor; and
a recording unit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compression circuit on a recording medium.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic imaging system according to claim [[12]] 32, wherein said data recorded in advance on said recording medium is medical-field data or patient data.

14. - 31. (Canceled)

32. (New) An endoscopic imaging system according to claim 11, wherein said discrimination signal is produced according to at least one of a type of imaging device, a type of

endoscope, a level of enhancement performed by said signal processor, and data recorded in advance on said recording medium.